

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 855

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3652

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS/ ELAB XZ UR ILO

SUBJECT: SHELEPIN MEETING WITH SCANDINAVIAN LABOR LEADERS
IN HELSINKI

REF: A. HELSINKI 2652

B. COPENHAGEN 2554

1. LENNART BODSTROM, PRESIDENT OF SWEDISH TCO AND PARTICIPANT IN HELSINKI TALKS, CONFIRMED BASIS INFO CONTAINED REFTELS RE TALKS BETWEEN ALEXANDER SHELEPIN, CHAIRMAN OF SOVIET TRADE UNION CENTRAL AUCCTU AND LEADERS OF NORDIC TRADE UNION COUNCIL (NFS). BODSTROM (PROTECT MADE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OF INTEREST.

2. BODSTROM SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT HAMALAINEN CALLED MEETING AT SHELEPIN'S REQUEST. DURING MEETING, SHELEPIN MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIZING THAT HIS WAS A "SECRET" MEETING. IN ADDITION OF THE AUCCTU/NFS ROUND TABLE, SHELEPIN AND HAMALAINEN SPENT SEVERAL HOURS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. SWEDES NOT REPEAT NOT PRIVY TO THESE TALKS, BUT BELIEVE THEY WERE RELATED TO FINNISH SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT WITH COMMON MARKET. BELIEVE THAT HAMALAINEN WILLINGNESS TO ACT AT THIS TIME AS SHELEPIN MESSENGER IN SETTING UP AUCCTU/NFS SESSION WAS TIED TO THE OPPORTUNITY THIS GAVE HAMALAINEN TO IMPRESS UPON MOSCOW, THROUGH SHELEPIN, FINNISH TRADE UNION INTEREST IN SEEING EC ACCORD SIGNED AND IN EASING ANY DOUBTS AUCCTU LEADERS MAY HAVE HAD AS TO THE EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT UPON FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS.

3. IN ASSESSING SHELEPIN'S MOTIVES IN REQUESTING MEETING, BODSTROM CONFIRMED INFO IN REFTELS THAT MEETING WAS CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SWEDISH LO'S GUNNAR NILSSON AND DANISH LO'S THOMAS LIELSEN AND FOR PROMOTING EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE AT ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEXT JANUARY. BODSTROM CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED AS TO DESIREABILITY OF ILO GOVERNING BODY EUROPEAN WORKERS REPRESENTATIVES BEING CONVENING BODY. IN ANY EVENT, NORDICS PLAN RECOMMENDING THIS COURSE OF ACTION AT UPCOMING ETUC MEETING IN NOVEMBER. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FRENCH FO WILL OBJECT, MAKING THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROCEDURE NOT REPEAT NOT CERTAIN. HOWEVER, TCO AND LO BOTH BELIEVE IT TO BE THE MOST FEASIBLE APPROACH IF THE CONFERENCE IS TO TAKE PLACE.

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4. IN ADDITIONAL COMMENT RE SHELEPIN'S DRIVE FOR EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, BODSTROM PASSED ON THE RUMOR THAT SHELEPIN IS IN TROUBLE WITH THE KREMLIN OVER BEING "TOO WESTERN ORIENTED". IF TRUE, SUCCESS IN PULLING OFF AN EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE BECOMES NOT ONLY POLITICALLY DESIREABLE FOR THE SOVIETS BUT MAY ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR SHELEPIN'S SURVIVAL AS AUCCTU CHIEF.

5. SWEDES NOTED THAT HEINZ VETTER OF WEST GERMANY DGB WAS IN MOSCOW ONLY A DAY OR TWO BEFORE SHELEPIN FLEW TO HELSINKI. THEY CONCLUDE THAT VETTER WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF AUCCTU-
NFS MEETING. BODSTROM ADDED THAT VETTER'S TACTICS IN PURSUIT OF EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS ARE GREETED WITH MIXED FEELINGS AMONG SWEDES. HE CITED SEVERAL INSTANCES WHERE VETTER HAS FROM PUBLIC PLATFORMS URGED A GO-SLOW POLICY ONLY TO PRIVATELY MEET THE SAME OR NEXT DAY WITH SOVIET OR EAST GERMANY UNION OFFICIALS. WHILE VETTER'S TACTICS IN THIS AREA MAY BE EXPLAINABLE AS PART OF THE LARGER FIELD OF "OSTPOLITIK", THEY OFTEN GIVE THE IMPRES-
SION OF SOME SORT OF DOUBLE GAME. BODSTROM SAID THAT THESE TAC-
TICS HAVE DONE LITTLE TO CREATE CONFIDENCE AMONG OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS AND HAVE PROBABLY CREATED CONFUSION OVER THIS QUESTION WITHIN DGB RANKS.
DOZIER

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